

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for tracking the transmission of a digital file over the Internet comprising the steps of:

receiving packets constituting segments of the file in transit over the Internet;  
examining file headers in said packets to determine the presence of specific identifying indicia therein;  
recording the Internet Protocol header source address for each of the packets containing said specific identifying indicia; and  
sending all the received packets unaltered to a next Internet leg in the transmission path of the file.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, including the additional step of recording the Internet Protocol header destination address for the file.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, including the additional step of transmitting said identifying indicia and said source Internet address to a proprietor of the file.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, including the additional step of transmitting said identifying indicia and said source Internet address to a remote site.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said examining step further includes:

searching said file headers for TCP headers containing port numbers indicative of an email message;  
searching each of said packets, in which port numbers indicative of email messages were found, for an attachment; and  
when said attachment is found, locating the source Internet address in an IP

header for the file containing the attachment.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying indicia comprises a user-defined character sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- an extension to an existing file format, prepended to the file;
- a sequence of bits embedded in the file; and
- an absence of code in a predefined area within the file.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A system for tracking an Internet transmission of a digital file containing identifying indicia in a file header, the system comprising:

- a server which receives the file;
- a router which routes all packets comprising the file unaltered to a next Internet leg in the transmission path of the file; and
- a monitor, connected between said server and said router, which processes packets constituting segments of the file;  
wherein said monitor is programmed to:
  - examine file headers in said packets to determine the presence of said identifying indicia therein; and
  - record the source Internet address for said file for each of the packets containing said identifying indicia.

Claim 8 (original): The system of claim 7, wherein said monitor is further programmed to:

- search said file headers for TCP headers containing port numbers indicative of email messages;
- search each of said packets, in which port numbers indicative of email messages were found, for an attachment; and
- locate the source Internet address in an IP header for the file containing the attachment.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The system of claim 7, wherein said identifying indicia comprises a user-defined character sequence selected from the group

consisting of:

- an extension to an existing file format, prepended to the file;
- a sequence of bits embedded in the file; and
- an absence of code in a predefined area within the file.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A system for tracking an Internet transmission of a digital file containing identifying indicia in a file header, the system comprising:.

- a modem which receives the file;-
- a server for processing the file;
- a monitor, connected between said modem and said server, which processes packets constituting segments of the file; wherein said monitor is programmed to:
  - examine file headers in said packets to determine the presence of said identifying indicia therein; and
  - record the source Internet address for said file for each of the packets containing said identifying indicia; and
  - means for sending the received file unaltered to a next Internet leg in the transmission path of the file.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for tracking the transmission of a digital file over the Internet comprising the steps of:

- receiving packets constituting segments of the file in transit over the Internet;
- examining file headers in said packets to determine the presence of specific identifying indicia therein;
- recording, for each of the packets containing said identifying indicia, the source Internet address for the file; and
- sending all the received packets unaltered to a next Internet leg in the transmission path of the file.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein said examining step further includes:

- searching said file headers for TCP headers containing port numbers indicative of email

messages;

searching each of said packets, in which port numbers indicative of email messages were found, for a MIME header indicative of an attachment; and

when said MIME header indicative of an attachment is found:

searching a header directly prepended to the file to find said identifying indicia therein, when said MIME header is indicative of an attachment containing a type of said file sought; and

locating the source Internet address in an IP header for the file containing the attachment, when said identifying indicia is found.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein said identifying indicia comprises a user-defined character sequence selected from the group consisting of:

an extension to an existing file format, prepended to the file; a sequence of bits embedded in the file; and

an absence of code in a predefined area within the file.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method for tracking the transmission of a digital file over the Internet comprising the steps of:

placing identifying indicia in said digital file;

using a data communications monitoring device to capture all packets of information being transmitted via the Internet without alteration of the captured packets;

examining certain ones of said packets to determine the presence of said identifying indicia in said file; and

recording the source and destination Internet addresses for each of the packets containing said identifying indicia, and the identity of the file associated therewith.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein said identifying indicia is prepended to said header.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein said identifying indicia is embedded in said file.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for tracking the transmission of a digital file over the Internet comprising the steps of:

receiving packets constituting segments of the file in transit over the Internet; searching said packets for TCP headers containing port numbers indicative of email messages;

searching each of said packets, in which said port numbers indicative of email messages were found, for a MIME header indicative of an attachment;

when said MIME header indicative of an attachment is found:

searching a header directly prepended to the file to locate an identifying indicia therein, when said MIME header is indicative of an attachment

containing a type of said file sought;

locating a source Internet address in an IP header for the file containing the attachment containing the type of said file sought, when said identifying indicia is located; and

recording, for each of the packets containing said identifying indicia, the source Internet address for the file; and

sending all the received packets unaltered to a next Internet leg in the transmission path of the file.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, including the additional step of transferring said identifying indicia and said source Internet address to a proprietor of the file.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18, including the additional step of transferring additional information in said file to the proprietor of the file.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A system for tracking an Internet transmission of a digital file containing identifying indicia in a file header, wherein said file comprises a plurality of packets constituting segments of the file, the system comprising:

a server for receiving the file;

a router for routing all packets comprising the file unaltered to a next Internet leg in the transmission path of the file;

monitoring means, connected between said server and said router, for examining file

headers in said packets to determine the presence of said identifying indicia therein; and  
means for recording the source Internet address for said file for each of the packets  
containing said identifying indicia.

Claim 21 (Original): The system of claim 20, wherein said monitoring means further  
comprises searching means for:

locating said file headers for TCP headers containing port numbers indicative of email  
messages;

locating each of said packets, in which port numbers indicative of email messages were  
found, for an attachment; and

locating the source Internet address in an IP header for the file containing the attachment.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A method for tracking the transmission of a digital  
file over the Internet comprising the steps of:

receiving packets constituting segments of the file in transit over the Internet;

searching said packets for an MPEG Layer 3 header prepended to the file; searching  
said MPEG Layer 3 header for identifying indicia located therein, if said MPEG Layer 3  
header is located;

locating the source Internet address in an IP header for the file containing said identifying  
indicia, if said identifying indicia is located;

recording, for each of the packets containing said identifying indicia, the source Internet  
address for the file; and

sending all the received packets unaltered to a next Internet leg in the transmission path of  
the file.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein said identifying indicia is located  
in a header having a field indicating that the frame size thereof is zero bytes in length.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein said identifying indicia is located  
in a header having a frame size field indicating that there is no information field appended to the  
frame size field.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein said identifying indicia comprises a user-defined character sequence located in the 'frame ID' and 'flags' fields of an ID3v2 frame header.

Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein said identifying indicia comprises a user-defined character sequence selected from the group consisting of:  
an extension to an existing file format, prepended to the file;  
a sequence of bits embedded in the file; and  
an absence of code in a predefined area within the file.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method for tracking the transmission of a digital file over the Internet by a first user to a second user comprising the steps of:  
receiving from the first user packets constituting segments of the file in transit over the Internet;  
examining file headers in said packets to determine the presence of specific identifying indicia therein;  
recording the Internet Protocol header source address for each of the packets containing said specific identifying indicia;  
sending the received packets unaltered to a next Internet leg in the transmission path of the file to the second user; and  
transmitting said identifying indicia and said source Internet address to a third user.